NOVA

#2 LOVENESS • PÉREZ • HERRING

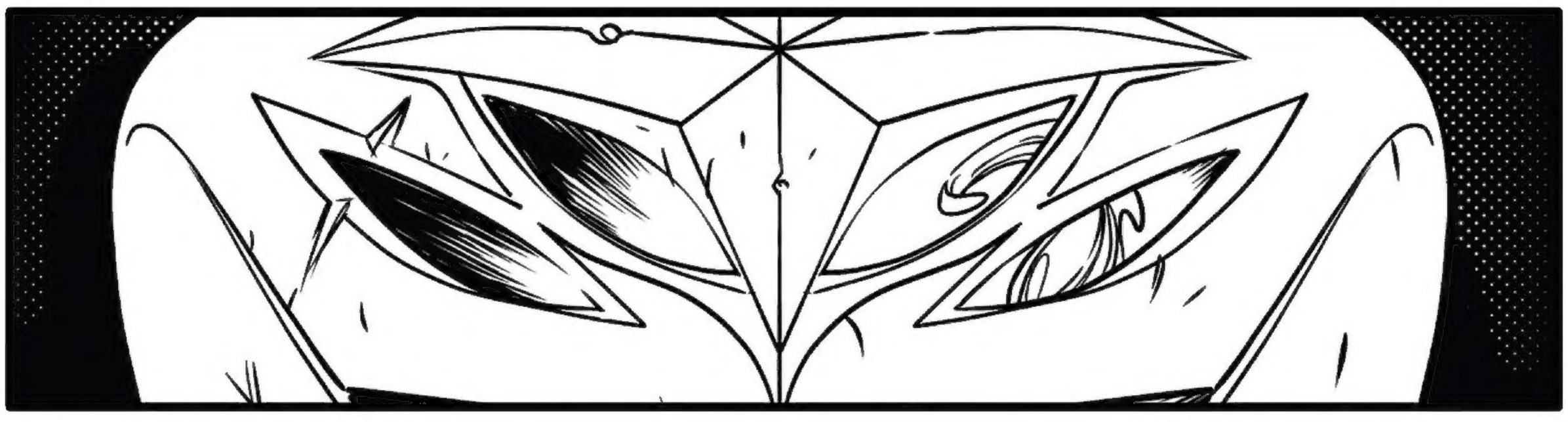
PÉREZ 2016

MARVEL

NOVA

FOR MONTHS, SAM ALEXANDER HAS BEEN TRYING TO FIND A BALANCE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND BEING THE LAST AND ONLY NOVA. BUT WHEN A SIGNAL ANNOUNCED THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER ACTIVE NOVA ON EARTH, SAM RACED TO THE SIGNAL'S POINT OF ORIGIN IN THE HOPES OF FINDING HIS FATHER, A FORMER NOVA WHO HAS GONE MISSING...

MEANWHILE, AFTER BEING KILLED BY THANOS IN A PARALLEL DIMENSION CALLED THE CANCERVERSE, NOVA CORPS SOLDIER RICHARD RIDER HAS INEXPLICABLY COME BACK TO LIFE. EAGER TO GET BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS, HE DONNED HIS NOVA HELMET ONCE MORE, ONLY TO BE KNOCKED OUT OF THE SKY BY A SWIRLING, SEETHING MASS THAT SEEMS TO HAVE RETURNED FROM THE CANCERVERSE WITH HIM...



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Not gonna lie, I feel cheated.

Last time, I thought I found my dad.

Turns out he was a clone-- made by the Chitauri to steal the Nova Force power in his helmet.

My helmet.

So that sucked.

Now all the Novas are dead...and I'm the last one-- carrying on the legacy of people I never even knew.

So, what's this signal then?

Another trap? Or could Dad be...

Wait...

NOVA ISOLATED
VEL 120 MPH
IMP 8.1 SEC

ZOOM 60x
VEL 138 MPH
IMP 4.7 SEC

ZOOM 120x
VEL 138 MPH
IMP 2.6 SEC

Dad?

DAD!

SNATCH!

Got you!

Wait...

Rich Rider?

KRAK

SKID
PLAF
AURGH!
What now?
Oh.
Well, well, well. If it isn't my old nemesis. *Puberty.*
KRAK
Okay, ugly *AND* fast.
Okay, then. Let's do this, Puberty!

LASH

Oh, you're after *him*?

Well, you have to go through me first!

This is for making me smell bad all the time!

Like, *all* the time!

ZRAP

≠UGH≠ That...That was unpleasant.

Who the hell...?

≠HURRK≠ Okay...maybe you *will* go through me.

Flarkin' ≠URGH≠ zit!

ZRAK

Need a hand, kid?

Rich, right?

You got it.

You died -- how?

Monster first, chat later.

What tear?

Keep the pressure on. Focus at the base. Drive it back into the tear.

Just keep shooting.

I'm Sam, by the way.

Good to meet you, Sam.

Where'd that thing come from?

...No idea. Heh. After a while, you stop asking where the monster comes from and just *punch* the monster.

Usually works out.

Okay, who are you really?!

Easy, kid. Settle down.

Rich Rider died!

Yeah, I was there. I'm back now.

How?!

Did your voice just crack?

Shut up!

Robot?

What?

Clone?

No.

Skrull?

If I was, you'd be dead five minutes ago.

You okay?

Aliens cloned my dad and he tried to kill me.

We're proving this right now!

Okay. Fair.

Robot?
Clone?
He's completely organic...
His genetics are a 99.99% match with the sample you provided for me. No evidence of tampering, manipulation or duplication of *any* kind.
Skrull?
Shut up or get out of my food truck.

I've run the bioscans.
This *is* Richard Rider.
Welcome back. Try not to die again.
...Thanks?

Wow. It's really you.
Uh...Sorry I called you a clone.
And aimed a laser at you.
It happens.
Whoa! It's really him!

The *original* Nova!
I've read so much about you on the forums!
Your fans are... intense.
Hey, guys! Thanks for coming.
You called backup?
...Maybe.
But this is Ms. Marvel and Spider-Man.

You're Ms. Marvel?
Yup.
What happened to Carol?
You mean *Captain* Marvel?
He's *dead*.
She's not.
...And you're Spider-Man?
Yeah.
Is he dead, too?
No.
Cyclops is.
Cyclops?!

Hi.
My adult self went crazy and died. I'm from the past and stuck in this time.
I hate everything about that sentence.
And you are?
I am the synthetic daughter of Vision.
Is *every* super hero twelve now?
Maybe you're just *old*.

...Guess it *has* been a long time since the Annihilation Wave.

The what?

The...Annih-- does no one know about that? Do the Avengers not teach you guys anything?

Uh, we're not really talking to them...

We kind of had...a pretty big difference of opinion.

Another one?

Yeah... everyone kinda hates everyone right now.

Again.

...You were an Avenger, right?

No.

Seriously? I mean, ***everyone's*** been an Avenger.

I don't think that's--

I was.

Me too.

...Me too. We quit.

I was on the New Warriors.

...Cool.

Yeah. They're... a team.

Rich?

Something wrong?

No...just need to get some air.

...Was I too mean about the New Warriors?

Rich?

...Are you okay?

...

We almost lost.

The Annihilation Wave...then Thanos. We almost lost *everything.*

And they're all down here--still fighting each other.

Like nothing happened. Like it didn't matter.

No one *remembers...*

And my dad died...

Guess you're never ready for that.

...I miss my dad too.

I don't know why I'm back.

Or what I'm supposed to do now.

Maybe I just need to get away from the capes for a bit.

Nobody really wears capes anymore.

Heh--I noticed that.

But... I think I know something that can help.

UHM, not sure what's up. My mom's not known for throwing house parties.

Sammy! ¿Dónde has estado?

¡Sabes lo importante que esta reunión era para mí! Toda la familia están visitando por sólo un poco tiempo!

Mom! Mom! English-- I got about half that!

El Dia De Los Reyes, Sammy! I *told* you family was coming up to celebrate.

My bad, Mom. Sorry.

EL ALMACEN

Oh, pardon me--

Mom. This is Rich, he's a friend. From space.

Long Island, actually.

Uh. He's like Dad? Real Dad. Not the fake dad who--

Sammy. I get it. And I don't want to know.

A pleasure to meet you Mrs...?

Mrs. Alexander, but please, Eva.

Good to meet you, Rich.

Now get out there and say hello to your aunts and uncles, Samuel!

Out of my kitchen, *vamos!*

Sorry, Rich.

S'all right, kid, I got a mom too.

And family is important. It's why we do what we do.

PINCH !!!

Well, well, well, look who's finally decided to show...

Li'l *chollo* is in the house.

Tio Silvio--*Tio* Sergio!

Been a while Sammy, you taking care of your mom like you promised?

You're the man of the house now, you know.

I know! I know!

How's that little fix we helped you out with over the summer holding up? Helmet looking good?

What?

Oh yeah, it's perfect!

Thanks again.

Our li'l hero!

We're always here for you, Sammy. You, Kaelitta, and your mom.

La familia es lo primero.

Oh hey, that reminds me...

I'll be right back, guys, I gotta show my friend Rich something.

Where'd you find these?

Just, out there, y'know, doing...

Space stuff?

Space stuff, yeah.

I don't know what you're going through...

But keep going.

What?

I haven't been a Nova as long as you.

...But I *am* a Nova... and I know it gets...

It's like what you said...

"We don't get to quit."

No. Guess we don't.

Y'know what helps me, *UHM*, clear my head when I got too much going on in here?

Yeah?

Yeah.

I like your style, kid.

I know a place.

Race you there.

Wait, you ripped Annihilus' intestines out of his *throat?* Can you even *do* that?

Y'know, I was a little too busy ripping his intestines out of his throat to ask.

Here we are...

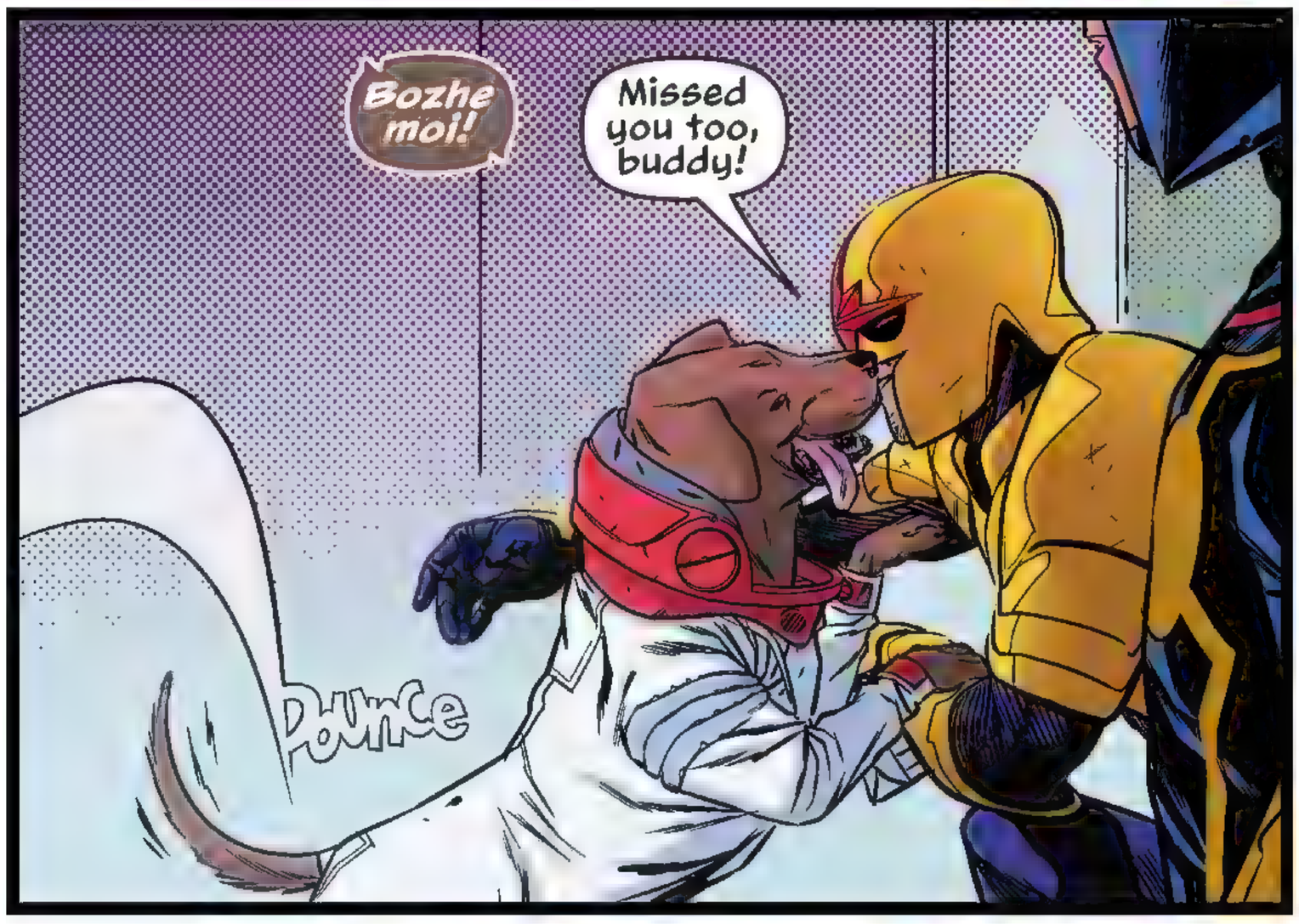
Knowhere.

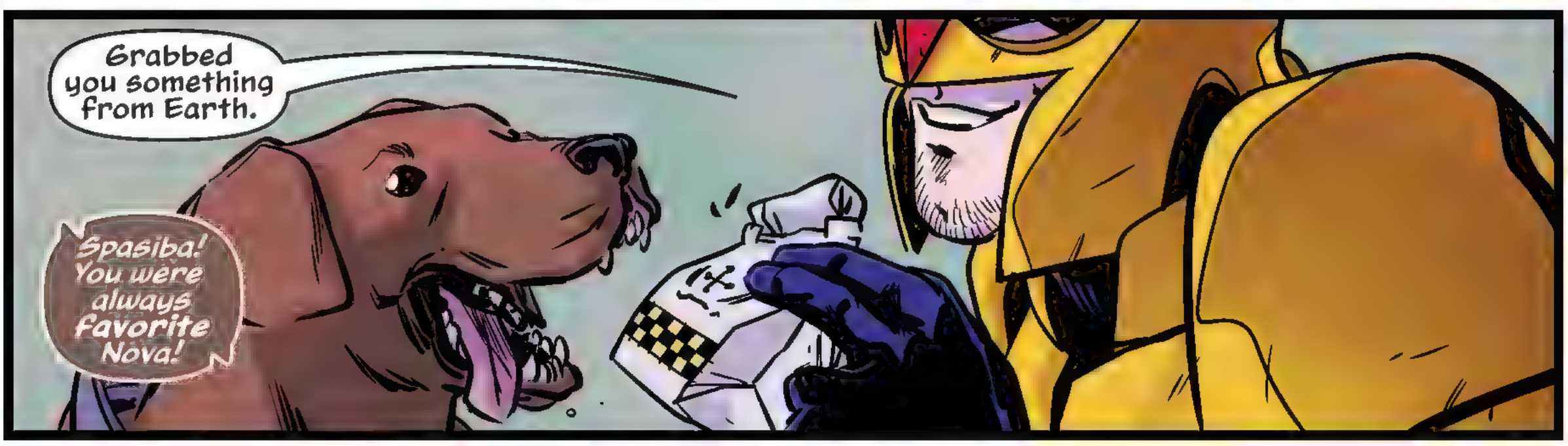
Never thought I'd be so happy to see a giant dead alien head again.

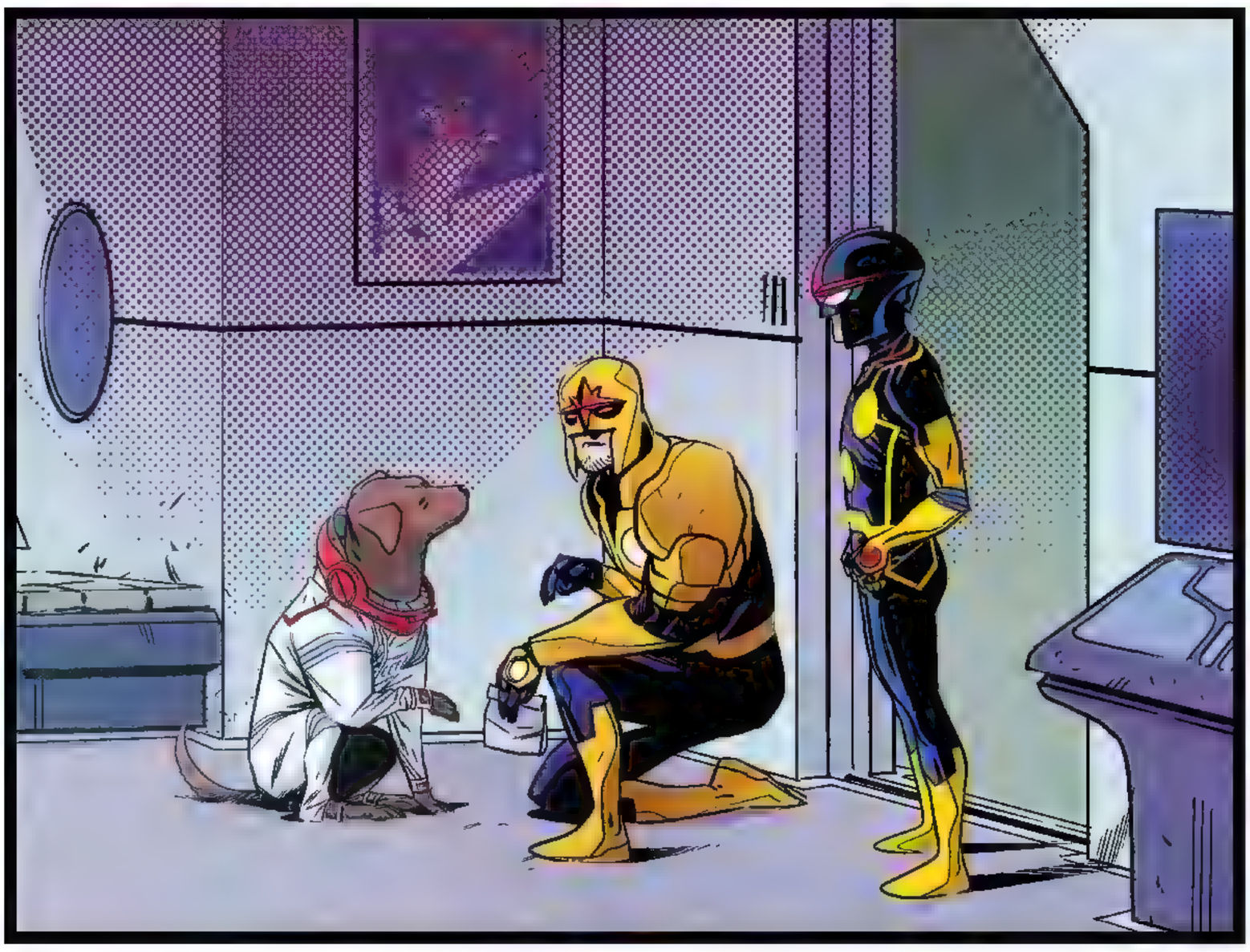
And I know just who to visit.

ВОЙНА И МИРЪ
СССР

Cosmo!
Cosmo is busy.
And what if it's an old comrade?
ВОЙНА


Bozhe moi!
Missed you too, buddy!
Pounce


Grabbed you something from Earth.
Spasiba! You were always favorite Nova!



You good Nova too.
Thanks.
He is better Nova.
Okay.
Ripped Annihilus' guts from throat.
Heard about that. Yeah.

What are you reading?

War and Peace. Again.

Wow. I didn't know you could... read.

I am mind-reading dog. Not idiot.

ВОЙНА И МИРЪ

War and Peace. That's... pretty good. Right?

Da. Tolstoy's timeless masterpiece is "Pretty good." Americans.

Cool... I've been thinking about... getting into books.

Who is "Lina"?

What?

Your brain keep screaming "Lina." Who is?

Oh, uh... she's just some girl. At school.

You love Lina.

What? No!

You have loud brain. Lina loves books. You love Lina.

Wow. Why haven't I heard about your girlfriend yet?

She's not my girlfriend... she's just a girl--

That you want to be your girlfriend.

I dunno. Maybe.

Brain screams yes.

Stop reading my brain!

Just be confident! Women love men. Not weak, sweaty boys.

Shut up, Communist dog.

I think this calls for a drink...and if I remember there's a good place just a few levels down.

...Hey.

Did you ever get used to the stares?

Nah.

Rich? I heard you were--

I was. How ya been, Syk?

Um... what's the drinking age in space?

Oh. Right. You're twelve.

I'm gonna be sixteen in--

Just keep the helmet on and try to act like you can grow a beard...

I can grow... hair.

It'd be more convincing if your voice didn't just crack.

It doesn't crack... that much anymore.

Cool. I'll tell Thanos.

Thanks, Syk. Lemme see if I've still got some credits in here--

Rich. Stop.

Nah, I'm not gonna short you.

I don't think you get it.

You don't owe us anything.

I think they remember.

Yes. We DO remember the Novas.

TRAK

And there is a price on your heads. Dead or alive. Yes.

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT:

NOVA

ZONE